Bob Bates
204 E. Locust Drive
Blue Springs, MO 64014

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Dear Bob,

We enjoyed your visit, too.

I'm glad you enclose that clipping. The Wash. Post did not carry that story and the ARRB omitted that release from those it sent me. I do think that those ARRB board members are subject-matter ignoramuses and may well seek disclosure of what has no real connection with the assassination and might do a little harm. There are some sources, as you I am sure know, who should not be disclosed. The board has ordered the FBI to disclose its San Giancana records beginning in 1960 and that may lead to the identification of informants. It did disclose one of them to me 25 years ago. It did not respond when I wrote and told it. Besides, ~~the~~ that crazy CIA adventure had nothing to do with the assassination. This is true of all they've ordered disclosed that I know of but Oswald and Ruby records should all be disclosed anyway. But to answer your question I do not know more about what those records are and I doubt they have any assassination relevance.

I'm glad to have those Hosty notes and I'll comment on some. I do realize that in making notes some can be omitted and that can lead to unfair comments but I do not believe there will be much of this if any at all.

Oswald did make the second middle grade in shooting in basic training. He was a lousy shot before dischagge and barely met the minimum requirment with help from his pals.

He is wrong on the delay in Oswald's return. State wanted him back fast as it did all who defected or seemed to. He cause the delay. He insisted that no charges be placed against him and that his wife be admitted. She'd belong to a Communist youth group and the INS did not want to admit her, for that reason, even though she was expelled from it for nonpayment of dues.

The FBI did, and not without reason, want to be sure neither Oswald was working for the Soviets or was to be an agent in place. That is the given reason for interest in them and I believe it. That the FBI believed it would be unlikely is also reasonable and that is why they did not push any part of it. That was the reason for those Fain interviews, he testified, and I believe him. I do not recall any renewed interest in Marina and the case was in NO. Hosty testified that it was returned to him the morning of the assassination. That followed Oswald's strange doings in N.O. and the attention some of them got.

Oswald was in the CAP briefly and briefly Ferrie was inactive in it. But I have always believed that the reason Ferrie fled N.O. the day of the assassination was that he had known Oswald and had made the dangerous comments you saw in my books about Kennedy should be killed.

I doubt that Banister and Oswald had anything to do with each other. That seems to have been made up by Shaw's lawyers to answer what those Clinton witnesses said. They argued the man thought to have been Shaw was Banister. The rest seems to be the fabrication of Delphine Roberts. What I say on this Garrison told me but to a degree at least it can make sense. Roberts was Banister's mistress as well as secretary. There came a time when she and the widow were fighting fof Banister's records. Roberts made that stuff up after refusing to talk to Garrison, that stuff about their alleged connection. It was to embarrass and maybe it did. It also launched a new mythology. Politically Banister and Oswald could not have been farthur apart.

Kennedy did not order the Castro overthrow in 6/63. His solution to the Cuba missile risis of 10/62 was that we would protect Castro against any invasion and beginning about then in 1963 he was having the customs and others clamp down on the soldier of fortune types who planned invasions, etc.

Whatever "LHO in Mexico City - good intelligence?" means there was no common sense intelligence or any other kind, including on reporting, other than by the Legat over the CIA station's craziness that could have started World War III. The Legat's common sense led to the exposure of planted bum steers that were obviously bad.

Hosty is not truthful about that note that Oswald left for him. The FBI let him get away with murder with regard to that because of what he could have said that it did not want said. If you know anyone who is interested in that I made a special file of duplicates of the IG's report. There were those who saw that note who testified that it was a threat. There was disagreement about what the threat was. Elsewhere Hosty said it was to sue him! It seems to have been to bomb but that is not certain. HQ did know about that note and it "handled" that as soon as Oswald was dead from another record I have. It told Shanklin to destroy it and he gave Hosty that order. I think Shanklin then had that note, too.

There were several others who were arrested but they were all let go. That so many SAs and police were at that theater so fast seems strange.

Oswald was not the only one missing from the TSBD and Hosty did say more than he realized to Jack Revill, not Nevell. Hoover went ape over that. More when we talk if that interests you.

My recollection now is not certain but I believe that as soon as Oswald heard Hosty's name he went supersonic. He refused to talk until Hosty left and Hosty not only never returned, the case was taken from him that very day over that. And over that why would have been, regardless of what Hosty says about it.

There was never any positive and plausible ID of Oswald at any of the lineups although the police rigged them to make identification almost automatic.

Belmont was the superior of William C. Sullivan who headed Domestic Intel. There was another Assistant Director name William Sullivan then. I doubt he could or

would have countermanded his superior's order and I've seen no record reflecting any of that. I did read those Dallas records with care, too.

The FBI did not reenact the crime. Shaneyfelt did the photographic part of the Commission's reenactment. There was an earlier one by the Secret Service. No reenactment could have concluded that it "could easily have been done." In fact, the FBI and SS never did agree with the Commission's conclusions.

Whether or not LBJ was really worried about WW III that is the con he used to get Warren to agree to be chairman.

I do not know about any mention of that note at any party but the IG's records do make it fairly clear that it was leaked from inside that office after Shanklin's retirement was secure. Nobody else could have leaked it. And the receptionist, not the secretary, was the one who said most about the note. Oswald gave it to her, unsealed. She showed it to others.

HSCA was hung up on the mafia but I doubt that Hosty "blew their minds re FBI connection," with what not indicated. I did get reports that Hosty was trying to hook Oswald to be an informer but no confirmation of that.

The FBI did tap Marina but that was quite some time later. Hoover, who hated Warren, lunched with him and twisted Warren's arm so Warren would request the tap. Hoover made him believe that Marina might flee, the last thing in her mind. They also bugged her house before she moved in! With a nearby van. They offered me the tapes but because I knew there was much personal in them I declined so they'd not have me for an excuse for what could embarrass her more. The FBI did really lean on her to get her to change what she'd told the SS. I have a full record on that. They threatened to have her deported, using an INS man brought down from New York for that.

That is fiction about the puff of smoke, as Hosty said, and it was impossible from the official accounts of the shooting. I've often wondered why Hosty, with all that experience as an SA, made so much up. Over the years he made up much from clippings I was sent. Even the Wall Street Journal welcomed him and what he wrote so much of which was not so. He may have done some to get even but that does not explain all of it. And he did have reason to want to get even. Before the Bureau disciplined him and others, I think all ungfairly, it praised him for his unquestionable perjury before the Commission, for all of that testimony.

I hope this makes sense. I've rushed it to take a nap. I'm a bit tired.

Best to you both,

Harold